

B1 Sub C1  
connecting end of the suspension being positioned in a first direction and the connecting end of the slider/head being positioned in a second direction.

B2 Sub C  
17. (Twice Amended) The suspension assembly of claim 16, wherein said slider/head assembly is [orthognally] orthogonally mounted onto said suspension.

18. (Twice Amended) A suspension assembly comprising:  
a slider/head assembly;  
a suspension having a connecting end and electrically conducting paths;  
a microactuator having a connecting end ; and  
an interconnect module [coupled between said suspension and said] coupling the connecting ends of the suspension and the microactuator to route one or more data signals between said electrically conducting paths and said microactuator, such that the connecting end of the suspension being positioned in a first direction and the connecting end of the microactuator being positioned in a second direction.

B3 Sub D  
21. (Twice Amended) An assembly, comprising:  
a first device having a connecting end;  
a second device having a connecting end and electrically conducting paths; and  
an interconnect device [coupled between said] coupling the connecting ends of the first and second devices to route one or more signals between said first device and said electrically conducting paths, such that the connecting end of the first device being positioned in a first direction and the connecting end of the second device being positioned in a second direction.

B4 Sub D  
24. (Twice Amended) A storage device, comprising:  
a disk;  
a spindle motor positioned to support and rotate said disk;  
a suspension assembly including an interconnect module coupled between a slider/head assembly having a connecting end and a suspension, said suspension having a connecting end and electrically conducting paths, and said interconnect module coupling the connecting ends of the slider/head assembly and the suspension and routing one or more data signals between

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said electrically conducting paths and said slider/head assembly, such that the connecting end of the suspension being positioned in a first direction and the connecting end of the slider/head assembly being positioned in a second direction; and

an actuator coupled to said suspension assembly and operable to position said suspension assembly above said disk to access said disk for reading and/or writing operations.

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27. (Twice Amended) A test system for disks, comprising:  
a spindle motor for rotating a disk during a test operation; and  
a test platform including a suspension assembly coupled to an actuator, said actuator operable to position said suspension assembly above said disk to access said disk for said test operation, said suspension assembly including an interconnect module coupled between a slider/head assembly having a connecting end and a suspension, said suspension having a connecting end and electrically conducting paths, and said interconnect module coupling the connecting ends of the slider/head assembly and the suspension and routing one or more data signals between said electrically conducting paths and said slider/head assembly, such that the connecting end of the suspension being positioned in a first direction and the connecting end of the slider/head assembly being positioned in a second direction.

30. (Twice Amended) The test system of claim 29, wherein said slider/head assembly is [orthogonally] orthogonally mounted on said suspension.

31. (Twice Amended) A storage device, comprising:  
a disk;  
a spindle motor positioned to support and rotate said disk;  
a suspension assembly including an interconnect module coupled between a suspension having a connecting end and electrically conducting paths and a microactuator having a connecting end, the interconnect module coupling the connecting ends of the suspension and the microactuator and routing [to route] data signals between said [said] electrically conducting paths and said microactuator, such that the connecting end of the suspension being positioned in a first direction and the connecting end of the microactuator being positioned in a second direction; and

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an actuator coupled to said suspension assembly and operable to position said suspension assembly above said disk to access said disk for reading and/or writing operations.

33. (Amended) The storage device of claim 31, wherein said suspension is configured for in-line mounting of [said] a slider/head assembly.

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34. (Twice Amended) A test system for disks, comprising:  
a spindle motor for rotating a disk during a test operation; and  
a test platform including a suspension assembly coupled to an actuator, said actuator operable to position said suspension assembly above said disk to access said disk for said test operation, said suspension assembly including an interconnect module coupled between a suspension having a connecting end and electrically conducting paths and a microactuator having a connecting end, the interconnect module coupling the connecting ends of the suspension and the microactuator and routing [to route] data signals between said electrically conducting paths and said microactuator, such that the connecting end of the suspension being positioned in a first direction and the connecting end of the microactuator being positioned in a second direction.

36. (Amended) The test system of claim 34, wherein said suspension is configured for in-line mounting of [said] a slider/head assembly.

B8  
37. (Twice Amended) The test system of claim 36, wherein said [slider/head assembly] microactuator is [orthogonally] orthogonally mounted onto said suspension.

#### REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on November 3, 2000, the Examiner objected to claims 30 and 37, rejected claims 21 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Yan (U.S. Patent No. 6,025,988), and rejected claims 14-43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Simmons et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,862,010) in view of Yan. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of the claims in view of the foregoing amendments and the arguments provided below.